Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Pain is one of our nation's most serious health problems with an estimated 50 million Americans living with chronic pain caused by various diseases or disorders, and each year nearly 25 million Americans suffer with acute pain; and,

Whereas, Medical knowledge and technology exist to relieve or greatly ease pain, but most pain goes untreated, under treated or improperly treated, and many healthcare professionals lack sufficient knowledge on how to treat pain effectively; and,

Whereas, People who suffer from chronic pain are often stigmatized and often not informed about their right to effective pain assessment and management and it interferes with the way they think, feel and act; and,

Whereas, *Partners for Understanding Pain* is a consortium of organizations that touch the lives of people with chronic, acute and cancer pain; and,

Whereas, The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has identified chronic pain as a quality measure in the 8th Scope of Work and have set goals for South Dakota to improve the management of pain for residents in long-term care over a 3-year period; and,

Whereas, Increased public awareness of chronic pain may lead to earlier recognition and treatment, leading to lower health care and correctional costs, increased productivity and improve the ability of children and adolescents to learn and contribute to healthier families and communities:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim September 2006 as

PAIN AWARENESS MONTH

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-second Day of August in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State